

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #2403 1850020
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 030020Z JUL 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3439
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0644
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL 9536
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6323
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1955
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1331
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6995
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4482
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1549
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BOGOTA 002403

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN MILITARY RESCUES AMERICAN HOSTAGES,
INGRID BETANCOURT

11. Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos announced on July 2 that the Colombian military had rescued American hostages Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell, along with Ingrid Betancourt and eleven members of the Colombian security forces, from the FARC. Military intelligence rescued the hostages from an area south of San Jose de Guaviare in an operation titled "Operation Jaque." Santos said the unprecedented operation incurred no injuries or deaths. He added that the Colombian military had "infiltrated" the FARC Secretariat, as well as the FARC's First Front which was holding the hostages, as part of the operation. Santos called on all FARC to lay down their arms and demobilize. The Colombian military also captured two FARC members, including First Front commander Gerardo Antonio Aguilar, alias "Cesar," and Alexander Farfan, alias "Enrique Gafas." Santos said the military would hand "Cesar" over to Colombian judicial authorities. The American hostages are wheels up at 6:15 PM en route to the United States tonight.
BROWNFIELD